

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/606,649

Examiner

Lam P. Pham

Applicant(s)

YOUNG ET AL.

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 6/2/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 17-36.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 17-36 allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

There is no prior art fairly teach or suggest a sensor assembly (**claim 17**) for use in a vehicle seat cushion for detecting the presence of an occupant, said assembly comprising:

a first member defining an opening;

a second member having a portion slidably disposed in said opening such that said second member is movably mounted relative to said first member along a predetermined path;

a spring housed at least in part in said opening, said spring biasing said first member relative to said second member; and

a sensor device mounted to detect relative movement between said first and second members.

There is no prior art fairly teach or suggest a sensor mat assembly (**claim 30**) for use in a vehicle seat cushion for detecting the presence of an occupant, said assembly comprising:

a mat;

a first sensor assembly mounted at a first predetermined location on said mat, and a second sensor assembly mounted at a second predetermined location on said mat, each of said sensor assemblies including:

a first member;

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a second member movably mounted relative to said first member along a predetermined path; and

a spring biasing said first member relative to said second member; and

a sensor device to detect relative movement between respective first and second members, wherein the spring constant of said spring of said first sensor assembly is different from the spring constant of said spring of said second sensor assembly.

There is no prior art teach or suggest a sensor mat assembly (**claim 34**) for use in a vehicle seat cushion for detecting the presence of an occupant, said assembly comprising:

a mat;

a first sensor assembly mounted at a first predetermined location on said mat, and a second sensor assembly mounted at a second predetermined location on said mat, each of said sensor assemblies including:

a first member;

a second member movably mounted relative to said first member along a predetermined path;

a magnet mounted on one of said first and second members; and

a sensor device mounted to detect the position of said magnet,

wherein the gauss characteristic of said magnet of said first sensor assembly is different from the gauss characteristic of said magnet of said second sensor assembly.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lam P. Pham whose telephone number is 571-272-2977. The examiner can normally be reached on 10AM-7PM.

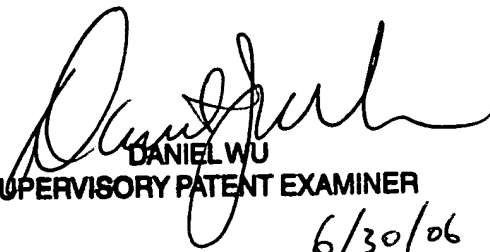
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel J. Wu can be reached on 571-272-2964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Lam Pham
June 26, 2006.


DANIEL WU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
6/30/06